

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ A process for manufacturing a refractory material, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising the following steps:

a) ~~deposit~~ depositing on the surface of a substrate or in a ~~mould~~ mold a first dispersion ~~containing~~ comprising:

at least one metallic compound in powder form ~~chosen~~ selected from among the group consisting of transition metal-containing borides, carbides and borocarbides ~~containing at least one transition metal, in powder form, and~~

a resin with a coke mass content equal to at least 30% after carbonization;

b) ~~[[dry]]~~ drying the ~~resulting deposit~~ dispersion deposited in step a);

c) optionally repeating steps a) and b) one or more times to form a dried deposit on the surface of the substrate or in the mold;

~~e)-cross-link~~ d) cross-linking the resin present in ~~this~~ the deposit;

~~d)-carbonize~~ e) carbonizing this cross-linked resin under an inert atmosphere;

~~e)-cover~~ f) covering the said deposit containing the cross-linked, carbonized resin with a second dispersion ~~containing~~ comprising:

silicon in powder form, and

a binder; and

~~f)-heat~~ g) heating, under an inert atmosphere, the covered deposit made produced, in step [[e)]] h) to a temperature equal to at least the melting temperature of silicon, under an inert atmosphere,

~~steps a) and b) possibly being repeated one or more times before going onto step c).~~

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the metallic compound in powder form is ~~chosen~~ selected from among the group consisting of hafnium borides, zirconium borides, titanium borides, hafnium carbides, zirconium carbides, and titanium ~~borides and~~ carbides.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ The process according to either claim 1 or claim 2, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the resin has a coke mass content equal to at least 45% after carbonization.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ The process according to ~~any one of the above claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the resin is chosen from among phenolic resins and furanic resins.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ The process according to ~~any one of the above claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the metallic compound in powder form present in the first dispersion is in the form of particles with an average diameter of less than or equal to 5  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ The process according to ~~any one of the above claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the binder present in the second dispersion is an aqueous solution of about 5% (m/m) of carboxymethylcellulose.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ The process according to ~~any one of the above claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~, in step a), the substrate on which the first

dispersion is deposited is a part composed of graphite or a composite material comprising a matrix and fibers in carbon and/or silicon carbide.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ The process according to ~~any one of the above claims claim 1, characterized in that wherein~~ the metallic compound in powder form is hafnium boride and ~~in that~~ the hafnium boride and resin contents of the first dispersion are such that at the end of step ~~[[d)]]~~ e), the mass ratio between hafnium boride and carbon derived from carbonization varies from 18:1 to 1:1, taking account of the mass ratio of coke in the ~~said~~ resin after carbonization.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 8, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the silicon content of the second dispersion is such that, after step ~~[[e)]]~~ f), the molar ratio between the carbon derived from carbonization of the resin and the deposited silicon is equal to 1 or is only very slightly different from 1, taking account of the mass per unit area of the deposit made with this second dispersion.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): ~~Use of a A process according to any one of claims 1 to 9~~ for making coatings intended to protect a carbon-based part from corrosion at very high temperatures, comprising applying to the carbon-based part a refractory material made according to claim 1.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): ~~[[Use]]~~ The process according to claim 10, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the carbon-based part ~~is composed of~~ comprises graphite or a composite material comprising a carbon or silicon carbide matrix and carbon and / or silicon carbide fibers.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): Protective coating containing a metallic compound comprising hafnium boride and silicon carbide, characterized in that it can be obtained by a process according to any one of claims 1 to 9.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): Protective coating according to claim 12, characterized in that it contains 50 to 95% (m/m) of hafnium boride and 5 to 50% (m/m) of silicon carbide.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): Use of a protective coating according to claim 12 or claim 13 to protect a carbon-based part from corrosion at very high temperatures.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): Use according to claim 14, characterized in that the carbon-based part is composed of graphite or a composite material comprising a matrix and fibers in carbon and/or silicon carbide.